



# FEMA

# Fact Sheet

## Mt. Weather Emergency Operations Center

The Mt. Weather Emergency Operations Center (MWEOC) is a Department of Homeland Security facility, situated on 564 acres high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, approximately 64 miles west of Washington, DC.

Known simply as "Mt. Weather," during the early 1900's, the site was originally acquired by the National Weather Bureau to launch weather balloons and kites for upper air research. During World War I there was an artillery range at Mount Weather, and Calvin Coolidge reportedly talked about constructing a summer White House at Mount Weather. Over the years, ownership transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Emergency Preparedness, the General Services Administration, and lastly, in 1979 to FEMA, upon its creation.

Today, MWEOC provides FEMA and other government agencies space for offices, operations, and storage, and is a hub of our Nation's emergency response activity.

### Mt. Weather's assets include:

- Office and warehouse space
- Dormitory and training rooms
- Café that seats over 280 personnel
- Fully equipped fire department and emergency medical unit with an ambulance service operated and staffed by FEMA employees
- Health unit
- Federal police force providing 24-hour, 7-day-a-week security
- Motor pool

### Benefits

The MWEOC mission is to manage, operate, and maintain the Mt. Weather Emergency Operations Center to support FEMA and other federal departments' and agencies' emergency management programs at all times and under all conditions.

The MWEOC provides facilities, logistics support, communications, operations centers and supporting personnel for a wide variety of vital government functions. The breadth and depth of capabilities offered by Mt. Weather make it a unique facility.

### Next Steps

The MWEOC supports a variety of disaster response and continuity missions, mostly classified. The Center is engaged in a massive infrastructure upgrade and has enacted its 5-year Master Plan for demolition of old buildings and construction of modern facilities to support 21st century technology and federal department and agency continuity requirements.

For more information contact the FEMA News Desk:  
**202-646-4600.**

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*FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.*

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